

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMAS
THORNTON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, last July I had an opportunity to participate in a day of celebration and remembrance of the great contribution to agriculture and the economy in general made by the late John Thomas Thornton, Jr., of the community of Parrott, Georgia. If you are not familiar with the name, you are not alone. Even in the area of southwest Georgia where he lived and farmed most of his life, many people are not fully aware of his contribution, which impacts our lives even today.

J.T. Thornton invented the peanut shaker, a harvesting device that came into common use in the 1940's. His invention revolutionized the peanut industry. By making the harvesting process faster and more efficient, the peanut shaker contributed greatly to the economic growth of our area of Georgia and, in fact, to the country at large.

Mr. Thornton spent some 40 years developing and perfecting his invention. It was a magnificent achievement. The history of this achievement was beautifully presented in an essay written by a student from Parrott, Bonnie West, who won high honors when she entered the paper in the National History Day competition. Her accomplishment helped revive community interest in Mr. Thornton's invention, which he called the "Victory Peanut Harvester."

The people of Parrott, including members of the Thornton family, are establishing a museum on the invention of the peanut shaker, and sponsored the day of celebration that included a parade and a number of other events. It was an exciting and enjoyable day, and it helped bring wider recognition of what this native southwest Georgian achieved.

Although farmers did not have any more spare time back then than they do today, J.T. Thornton somehow found the time to apply his practical knowledge of farming, and his extraordinary grasp of engineering and mechanics, to overcome all of the difficulties he must have encountered until he produced something that raised the quality of life for countless Americans. This is a story we are proud of in southwest Georgia, and that can inspire other Americans, especially our young people. Mr. Speaker, it is, therefore, a story I want to share with our colleagues in Congress.

IN MEMORY OF DENIS NICKEL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Denis Gene Nickel, a man who led a life that we can all admire and emulate. Denis devoted his life to improving the world we live in, and he realized incredible success in his efforts to save our nation's natural resources for future generations. He has left us with a legacy that demonstrates the power of partnerships and stewardship of our natural resources.

Denis gave thirty-four years of dedicated service to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. As an Area Conservationist in Santa Rosa, Denis worked extensively in the North Coast counties that I represent. His leadership in forming a coalition of local, private, state and federal agencies to manage the Mendocino County Tomki Watershed was invaluable in garnering support for such an incredibly important project in the 1st District of California.

In addition, Denis provided tremendous assistance and guidance to those involved in the viticulture industry in Napa and Sonoma counties. He was a pioneer in promoting local stewardship in the development of hillside erosion control methods—these methods are the bedrock of the methods currently used by viticulturists around the nation. The personal integrity that Denis showed in his daily work facilitated building a durable consensus of stakeholders in our nation's natural resources.

Denis was the consummate family man who enjoyed spending his time with a large extended family. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Sandi, for thirty-five years, and he was immensely proud of his three children, Wendy, Warren, and Amy.

His smile and good-natured sense of humor that his family and friends knew so well helped him to establish trusted relationships while working towards the admirable goal of sustaining America's vital resources. Denis worked not only for the benefit of the people of my district, but he has also been recognized across the country for his tremendous contributions, including his term as State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor the many invaluable contributions Denis Nickel made to my district and the entire nation. We would be fortunate to have more people of Denis's integrity working towards sustaining our natural resources for future generations.

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE TRADE RELATIONS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Auto Caucus with Congressman FRED UPTON, I am introducing on our behalf a concurrent resolution to express this Congress' support for improved trade relations in the automotive sector between Korea and the United States. A companion concurrent resolution is being introduced by the Senate Auto Caucus co-chairs, Senator CARL LEVIN and Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH.

For too long, Korea has kept its market closed to United States automobiles and auto parts. This must change.

Up until 1990, Korea maintained a completely closed market, and it was not until 1999, in the midst of economic crisis, that it opened its market to all manufacturers. However, it has made every effort to continue to restrict foreign motor vehicles. This is best exemplified by the facts. In the year 2000, a total

of 1,057,620 motor vehicles were sold in the Republic of Korea, but only 4414 were imported and only 1268 were made in the United States. As a result, American motor vehicles represented a pathetic 0.12 percent of all motor vehicle sales in Korea.

Anticompetitive activities in Korea must stop. Threats of income tax audits on Koreans who purchase foreign automobiles must cease. Underhanded trade barriers must be lowered. Passage of this concurrent resolution will send a clear message to Korea that things must change.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this effort to ensure fair trade and an open market for American motor vehicles in Korea. I look forward to working with colleagues to ensure its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, for Roll Call Vote No. 145, on final passage of H.R. 1, I was present in the Chamber and engaged in the debate on this bill as indicated by my previous vote on the Motion to Recommit (Roll Call Vote No. 144) and subsequent vote on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1836. Although I intended to vote "aye" on final passage of this bill, my vote was not registered. I ask unanimous consent that this statement appear immediately after Roll Call Vote No. 145 in the permanent CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JEFFERSON
STEPHENS, JR.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jefferson Stephens, Jr., who is retiring after more than twenty years as Headmaster of the Chandler School in Pasadena, California. On June 16th, the school will celebrate Mr. Stephens' career and the impact he has had on the lives of so many.

The Chandler School was founded with a vision to provide young students with innovative, inspired academic programs taught by caring, dedicated faculty and staff. Under Mr. Stephens' guidance, the Chandler School treats each child as an individual and strives to create an environment in which children develop self-esteem and self-discipline, as well as respect for their fellow students. As headmaster, Mr. Stephens, has expected high standards of behavior, courtesy, and academic performance from each child who has come to his school, and has fostered a scholastic atmosphere that encourages curiosity and creativity.

In addition to serving the academic community, Mr. Stephens has served as an associate pastor for the St. George's Episcopal Church. He has also participated in a wide range of civic duties, by assisting as a member of the Tournament of Roses Association and serving on the board of directors for a community housing project.

Our community gives heartfelt thanks to Mr. Stephens for his lifelong commitment to education and his ongoing dedication to public service. He is an asset to our community, and I want to thank Mr. Stephens for his years of hard work and selfless dedication and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.

THE WATER ENHANCEMENT SECURITY ACT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I join with Mr. CALVERT today in introducing the "Water Enhancement Security Act". This bill is the culmination of almost one decade of work by the Congress and the state Legislature, federal and state agencies and the California business community, agricultural and urban water districts and environmental groups.

For years, the water system in California seems to have been "broken"—our main water system, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and San Francisco Bay has been in a state of crisis due to conflicts between environmental protection, water use and water quality. In a state where we seem to either feast on water or famine without water, the drought of 1987–92 demonstrated just how vulnerable California is to water shortages, and the flood of 1997 demonstrated how vulnerable we are to the effects of flooding. Frequent conflicts between water quality, fish protection and water supply magnify the problem and demonstrate just how little "give" there is in our current system. With the state's population expected to grow from 34 million today to 59 million in 2040, the need to conserve, to better manage our existing supplies and to attain greater storage capacity is critical.

Despite the years of recognition by most Californians as to the need to attain these goals, no major achievement in our water policy had taken place since the 1960s, when, under Governor Pat Brown's leadership, the State Water Project was conceived. That was, however, until CalFed was formed in 1994.

In response to the water conflicts and the feast or famine predicament that we were under, the state and federal Administrations began talks, known as "CalFed". Over a period of years, 18 state and federal agencies have conducted hundreds of meetings, public hearings and negotiations with stakeholders regarding ways to better manage the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for those who depend upon it, as well as ways to restore the Bay-Delta's ecosystem. It seemed that there was everything to lose and everything to be gained—as the hub of California's water supply, the

Last year, I worked closely with California Governor Gray Davis and then Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt on a package that would move the CalFed program forward. Then, in June, 2000, Governor Davis and Secretary of Interior Babbitt announced a historic blueprint—the CalFed Framework for Action, followed by the Record of Decision in July, 2000. The legislation being introduced today is the crucial next step for the program. It authorizes the CalFed program to move forward, and expands this blueprint to other regions of the state.

Balance is the cornerstone of this bill. This bill ensures a long-lasting balanced program with the visionary and innovative approach of linking progress on water supply and water quality with progress to the environment, and with linking environmental progress to improvements in water supply and water quality. This theme of balance is echoed throughout the bill—there is balance in the structure for governance, balance in ecosystem/non-ecosystem programming, balance among the various regions of the state and balance in funding.

The bill is comprehensive and action-oriented. This bill provides real, tangible improvements for the environment, water quality and water supply throughout California. It commits to desperately needed additional surface and groundwater storage by authorizing water supply, water quality and flood control infrastructure improvements for a system that hasn't seen any major improvements in over 30 years. It contains short-term water supply improvements for water users that rely upon Delta exports and that have been disproportionately impacted by federal regulatory requirements. It expands environmental restoration projects in wetlands, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Bay Delta estuary, and rivers and streams. It expands and funds state-of-the-art water recycling and conservation programs throughout California. Each of these program elements is essential to improving the reliability and quality of California's water supply.

We are at a crossroad in California, as well as in most other regions of the country. For decades, we have benefited from the foresight of our predecessors—in their vision of what infrastructure would be necessary to meet our energy needs, our water needs, our transportation needs, our educational needs. I believe that it's time for us to exercise that same leadership, that same vision. I believe that it is time to prepare our generation and the generations that will follow us for the future. In meeting these needs, I believe that we can benefit from the things that we have learned over the last several decades about how to better protect the environment and about how to better conserve, while at the same time, providing for greater economic progress. This bill charts a course for attaining that vision.

I want to thank Mr. CALVERT for his leadership and efforts. I know that he and his staff have worked tirelessly to craft a fair and balanced program. I am committed, and I know that Mr. CALVERT is committed as well, to continue to work with Senator FEINSTEIN on her bill, and with the state and federal agencies and Administrations, and with all stakeholders on refinements to the bill to ensure that its potential benefits are met.

INTERVIEW WITH UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT LEONID KUCHMA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues a recent interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma which appeared in The International Jerusalem Post on May 11, 2001. This important interview discusses a wide range of matters

from Ukraine's cooperation with NATO to its relations with Israel to its current state of economic development. The interview also provides President Kuchma an opportunity to respond to some of the criticism recently leveled against him.

I ask that the article be printed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the International Jerusalem Post,
May 11, 2001]

THE VIEW FROM KIEV

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT LEONID KUCHMA TALKS ABOUT HIS COUNTRY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, THE SOMETIMES TROUBLED PAST OF ITS JEWISH COMMUNITY, AND ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE

(By Thomas A. Rose)

Mr. President, thank you for agreeing to share your thoughts with our readers. Your administration has come under increasing criticism from opponents who accuse your government of everything from failing to implement meaningful economic reform to suppressing press freedoms and even to charges that you were personally involved in the death of a prominent journalist. As a result, many in the West, particularly the United States, have started to question your country's political stability. How would you respond to these charges and concerns?

Politically, Ukraine is both stable and predictable. Industrial production is up, financial markets are improved, our agricultural sector is showing great promise, and we are beginning to see real progress in our effort to redress social contradictions.

Governmental bodies and the local authorities are functioning normally.

The world must know of the tremendous progress we have made and of the tremendous progress we will make. Our state is only 10 years old. In that short time, we have developed a functioning democracy, a free press, an independent financial system, and have become the first nation in history to voluntarily renounce and destroy its nuclear weapons' capability. These are not small accomplishments.

Regarding the attacks against me personally, I would call it more of an aggravation than a crisis. It is the demonstration and consequence of the situational uniting and stirring up of different forces and particular persons—political outsiders if you will—who are out for revenge and the redistribution of power through unconstitutional means.

Unfortunately, all the attention their outlandish charges are gaining in the West has emboldened them to think that they can threaten even the most considerable achievements of our Ukrainian nation, which are independence and sovereignty. Their ambition is to gain power for themselves. Yet, as you would say, the proof is in the pudding.

Domestically, which with all due respect, is the political realm to which I am responsible, these people cannot find support.

As to the so called "demonstrations" which have been well reported in the West, a few thousand paid participants in these protests do not have the key role and do not determine the general frames of mind of the Ukrainian people. In fact, things in this regard seem to have peaked on March 9. This has no doubt frightened the agitators, which is the very reason why they are trying to internationalize their cause.

However, I would be insincere if I do not say that artificial, purposeful, and excess politicization does not weaken our country and its ability to tackle the huge social and economic problems we face.